

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1–3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP 2003-5863. Applicant respectfully submits that, for the following reasons, the rejection is improper to the extent that it relies on 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Specifically, for purposes of 35 U.S.C. 102, JP 2003-5863 is only effective as a reference as of the date it was published, January 8, 2003. Since the instant application is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. 371, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 363, its filing date for purposes of 35 U.S.C. 102 (except as otherwise provided in 35 U.S.C. 102(e)) is May 23, 2003, its international filing date. Since the publication date of JP 2003-5863, January 8, 2003, is not more than one year prior to the filing date of the instant application, May 23, 2003, 35 U.S.C. 102(b) does not apply. Therefore, the present rejection can only be made under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), and it has been treated as such hereinafter.

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. 119(a), the instant application claims priority of foreign application JP 2002-192093 filed on July 1, 2002, prior to the publication date of JP 2003-5863. A certified copy of the priority document has already been received and acknowledged by the Examiner. For the purpose of establishing invention of the subject matter of claims 1–3 and 6 prior to the publication of JP 2003-5863, a verified translation of the certified copy of the priority document is enclosed herewith. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1–6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,100,943 to Koide et al. Claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6, which has been cancelled. For the following reasons the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding amended claim 1, Koide does not teach or suggest “a detecting unit, which detects opening and closing operations of the casing, wherein an operating area of the liquid crystal display device is limited in accordance with the opening and closing states detected by the detecting unit to switch the display part for displaying the image information,” as required. Nothing in Koide discloses or suggests that a casing opens and closes, as in the presently claimed invention. Moreover, nothing in Koide discloses or suggests limiting an operating area of a display device based on opening and closing states of a casing detected by a detecting unit, as in the presently claimed invention. It is noted that these limitations of amended claim 1 were present in claim 6 as it was rejected by the Examiner. The Examiner has not stated where disclosure of these limitations can be found in Koide, or alternatively, why such limitations would be obvious in view of Koide. If the Examiner intends to maintain the rejection, it is respectfully requested that the specific basis for the rejection be provided.

For the above reasons, every limitation of claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Koide in view of the prior art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our
Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 37325.

Respectfully submitted,
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